Shrimp Farming along the Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala

2103. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that more and more coastal farmers are taking to shrimp farming along the coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala;

(b) whether this unprecedented aquaculture boom has caught up traditional paddy growers along the coastal districts; thereby diverting paddy fields for aquaculture farming threatening a steep fall in paddy production; and

(c) whether this over-exploitation of traditional paddy fields for aqua-culture farming would damage the ecological balance along the coast; and if so, what steps Government propose to take to regulate conversion of agricultural land for shrimp farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been reported that the extent of conversion of paddy fields into fish farms in the coastal districts is very negligible as compared to the area under agriculture and the decline in paddy production, if any, cannot be mainly attributed to the conversion of paddy lands for aquaculture. It is also reported that the extent of impact on paddy fields due to the conversion of agricultural land to fish ponds is very little and the ecological imbalance, if any, can be rectified through improved methods of agricultural production.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Commissioner, Land Revenue for studying these issues.

Acquisition of Aircraft for Locust cont

2104. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE pleased to refer to the answer to Uns red Question 133 given in the Ra Sabha on 3rd December, 1993 and sta

(a) whether Government propose acquire different types of aircraft locust control measures as well as cr survey operations and cloud seeding bring artificial rains; and

(b) if so, what progress has been ma by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TI MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTION ENERGY RESOURCES AND TI MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MIN TRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) T erstwhile Agricultural Aviation Wing v transferred to the Ministry of Civil Av tion and Tourism in May, 1987 and si sequently to Vayudoot Limited in Janua 1988. A proposal to place the Agricultu Aviation Wing under the administrat control of Ministry of Agriculture under consideration.

Visit of World Bank Team in Assam

2105. SHRI TARA CHARAN M JUMDAR: Will the Minister of AGI CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-member Wo Bank team made a visit to some distri in Assam to examine the implmentat of the agricultural development pr ramme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the World Bank will lease aid for development programmes this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TI MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTION ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MIN TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Wo Bank team visited Assam from Octol

1993 (25-29th October, 93) to review status of preparation of the Agricultural Development Project (ADP) —Assam. It was tentatively decided in consultation with the State Government that the Agricultural Strategy Paper (ASP) would be finalised by December, 15, 93, Project proposed by February, 1994 and pre-appraisal of the project would be done in March-April, 1994.

(c) The entire process of ADP formulation gentrally takes about a year and a half and the World Bank aid under the project would be available only after the project has been finally appraised/ntgotiated.

Production of ground nuts and other oil seeds in Gujarat

2106. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production of groundnuts and other oil seeds during each of last three years in Saurashtra rtgion in Gujarat;

(b) whether production has been steadily declining;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for increasing the production of ground nuts and other oil seeds in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The production of groundnut and other oil seeds in six districts of Saurashtra region of Gujarat in three years ending 1991-92 was as follows:

Production in 000 Tons

	89-90	90-91	91-92
Groundnut	1488.2	749.8	457.20
Other oil Seeds	94.7	206.9	76.32
Total	1582.9	956.7	533.52

(b) and (c) There is declining trend in groundnut production in the region but in other oilseeds the production has been fluctuating. In Saurashtra region, the oil seeds are grown mostly under rainfed situation, therefore, the production depends on behaviour of rain fall.

(d) For increasing the production of oil seeds, a centrally sponsored oil seeds production programme (OPP) is under implementation in Gujarat including districts of Saurashtra region. OPP provides assistance on production and distribution of seeds, plant protection chemicals and equipments, sprinkler sets, conducting front line and general demonstrations on farmer's fields, gypsum and pyrites improved farm implements etc.

Presentation of locust menace control device by Australian overseas aid agency

2107. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some locust menace control device has been presented to India by as Australian Overseas Aid Agency;

(b) if so, details threof with its value in international market;

(c) whether some background lies behind this presentation;

(d) whether the use of the equipment will be made in consultation F.A.O.;

(c) if so, th reasons therefor; and

(f) what are functions of this device and advantage to be derived from this equipment?